

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Currently Amended) A method for the determination of multimers of multimer-forming proteins by gel electrophoresis, comprising

wherein fractionating a sample containing von Willebrand factor or fibrinogen into multimer bands is fractionated by submarine electrophoresis using a continuous, homogeneous agarose gel free of lumps,

wherein visualizing multimer bands are visualized by immunostaining after a Western blot analysis using a specific antibody enzyme conjugate on a blotting membrane, or are visualized by a dye in the gel,

and optionally, wherein quantifying stained bands on the blotting membrane or the dyed multimer bands the gel are quantified.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the dye is a blue stain.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the multimer-forming protein is fibrinogen.